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9/14/12

EDC 102

HW #2

For my research I have chosen Central High School in Providence which is grades 9-12. As I continue to do my research and come to realize what it is like to be a student as this high school, it will be very interesting to compare it to my experience as a high school student. I myself attended South Windsor High School in Connecticut for all four of my high school years. Although I do not have a lot to compare it to, I would consider myself to be very lucky for the experience that I had. I do feel that the building itself and some of its classrooms do need an update, but as far as the faculty and curriculum went, I feel that I was very fortunate. In comparison to “SI” I would consider my high school and its facilities to be significantly better. The quality of the facilities in which I was learning was never really something that crossed my mind. Reading about how awful the conditions can be for some students, I feel very lucky to have had a nice building, desks, furniture, books and more to come to every single day. I was raised in an environment where the significance of an education was always emphasized, and just about everyone I know attends college or has a degree. By making this the norm, just about everyone in my town that I know attends college. This is very different than it is in our readings. In many low income areas, college is not something that they are familiar with, nor is it something that they can afford. For that reason, hardly any of these students, if any, end up pursuing a college degree. When this is the environment they are familiar with, their children often end up in the same situation, and so the cycle continues. I felt that all of my teachers throughout high school were very good teachers, and encouraged us do to our best at all time. Along with that, all of my teachers were constantly available for extra help and would stay after or meet with you for just about anything you could need pertaining to the class and its material. This is much different than in “SI.” I feel that teachers who are hired into very poorly performing schools do not take their job nearly as seriously as teachers in better performing schools. They probably are just accepting the jobs because it is all they can get and because the students don’t take school seriously, they do not take teaching seriously. In my school, the teachers put a lot of emphasis on getting an education after our high school years. The teachers I worked with always put a lot of thought into their lessons and were always prepared and doing their best to help us learn the material. This is much different than in many low income areas. In high school I always realized the importance of working hard and doing my best because I knew that if I failed to do this my future would suffer. Even at a relatively young age I was able to realize where hard work would take me and where failure would lead. I can see how in some school systems, students may feel that regardless of what they do or how hard they work, it will still lead them nowhere. I can also see how this could often develop into a cycle. As a student at South Windsor High School, I was always able to get all of my books and materials necessary for class without a single issue. The books were always up to date and in at least decent condition. The same goes for calculators, rulers, protractor, and just about anything that a student could need to succeed in class. I couldn’t even imagine being a teacher in a class where none of the students have the books or materials they need. This is setting up everyone involved for failure. I can see how, as a student, it would be hard to take a class seriously when the town cannot even provide you with the things you need to succeed. Thus far it has been very interesting comparing my experience to that of the students in “SI.” I look forward to being able to do this as we continue.